

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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WELCH CO-SPONSORS CODE ADAM BILL TO HELP LOCATE MISSING CHILDREN

INDIANAPOLIS – Today Indiana House members passed legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington) that would create a "Code Adam" program to locate missing children.

Under Senate Bill 12, the Department of Administration would be required to adopt rules establishing and implementing a "Code Adam" protocol for lost or missing children in all state offices and buildings open to the public. State employees will be provided with procedures on how to act when a parent, teacher, or guardian notifies them that a child is missing and how to search the building where the child is presumed to be located.

"According to the National Crime Information Center, nearly 2,200 children are reported missing every day," said Welch. "The implementation of the Code Adam program in our state-operated buildings will move us one step closer to locating missing children in Indiana so that they can be safely returned to their families."

The "Code Adam" program is named for Adam Walsh, a six-year old whose 1981 abduction from a Florida shopping mall and subsequent murder helped raise awareness about child abductions. It was initially created in 1994 to thwart abductions in stores and has been used successfully in Indiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and other states. Recently, it has been revised to include federal office buildings.

The vote on the bill was 89-0. It will now be sent to a House-Senate conference committee where the final details of the bill will be worked out by a group of state representatives and senators.